ly and all relevant staff on duty were frisked but the money could not be recovered. The passenger lodged an F.I.R. with the Police Station, International Terminal I.G.I. Airport, New Delhi. The Police investigations are on.

(c) and (d) All claims pertaining to the loss or pilferage of registered baggage are settled as per the Carriage by Air Act; on weight loss basis. Passengers are also advised to carry currency, jewellery, negotiable instrument, etc. in their hand baggage. The details of the incidents and the compensation paid during the last three years is as follows:—

| Year | No. of cases | Amount of compensation paid |
|---|---|---|
| 1991-92 . . . . . | 22 | INR 5043<br>USD 398 |
| 1992-93 . . . . . | 24 | INR 10960<br>USD 1960 |
| 1993-94 . . . . . | 28 | INR 4532<br>USD 190 |

**Upgradation of Airports**

3248. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to upgrade a number of airports in the country to International standards and to equip them with all navigational and ground landing facilities to receive charter flights from abroad to reduce heavy landings and number of flight operations at Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta International Airports;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the number of airports in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh which are likely to be upgraded to International Route Standards in the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calicut Goa, and Hyderabad airports are being upgraded with all modern passenger amenities, navigational aids and communication facilities.

(c) Vadodara in Gujarat, Nagpur in Maharashtra and Indore in Madhya Pradesh are being developed as model airports with provisions of immigration and customs facilities to cater to limited international operations.

**Staff strength of Vayudoot**

3249. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of employees working with Vayudoot, both technical and non-technical;

(b) whether the employees of Vayudoot will be absorbed by the Indian Airlines; and

(c) if so, the number of employees absorbed by Indian Airlines so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) 985 employees of Vayudoot were to be absorbed by Indian Airlines out of a total 1391 employees.

(c) So far appointment letters to 778 Vayudoot employees for absorption in the Short Haul Operations Department of Indian Airlines have been issued.

**Aircrafts owned by Vayudoot**

3250. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vayudoot has been totally merged with Indian Airlines, if not, whether there is a proposal for the same.

(b) the number of aircrafts and type of aircrafts owned by Vayudoot;

(c) in how many sectors the Vayudoot Aircraft are flying if not, whether the aircrafts have been given on lease; and

(d) what is the total losses incurred by Vayudoot till 31st March, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Vayudoot is working as a separate division of Indian Airlines.

(b) Vayudoot owns 8 Dornier-228 aircraft out of which 3 are operational.

(c) Vayudoot is presently operating 13 stations in West Bengal and the North-East Region. No aircraft of Vayudoot is on lease.

(d) The total loss incurred by Vayudoot since its inception upto 31-3-94 is Rs. 201.60 Crores.

**Air-worthiness of Boeing aircrafts**

3251. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of 737 Boeing Aircrafts with Indian Airlines;

(b) how many of them have been flying for over 15 years;

(c) which international agency certify the Air-worthiness of Boeing 737 and whether all our Boeing 737 have been certified as airworthy, if so, when;

(d) whether Indian Airlines are considering to replace the Boeing 737 with any other new aircrafts; and

(e) if so, by when the Boeing 737 will be phased out finally?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has twenty Boeing 737 aircraft at present, of which eight are more than 15 years old.

(c) Certification of Air-worthiness for operators in India is within the domain of Director General of Civil Aviation: India; aircraft are operated only if they are certified by DGCA as airworthy.

(d) and (e) Indian Airilnes does not have any firm plan for replacement of Boeing 737 aircraft at present The aircraft are likely to remain in operation till the year 2000.

**Foreign Investors in Tourism Industry**

3252. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign investors have shown interest in investing in tourism industry in the country; and